Natural resources of Jharkhand

227. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jharkhand comprises of large forest areas which are reservoirs of high quality wood apart from precious minerals and coal;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted with a view to ascertain the extent of natural resources of the State;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been assessing forest cover of the country biennially since 1987. As per State of Forest Report, 2001 of FSI, Jharkhand has 22,637 Sq. Km. Forest and 2694 Sq. km tree cover.

(d) Does not arise.

Forests and tree cover

228. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present forest and tree cover in the country is 23.03 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an additional 6.4 million hectares of forest and tree cover is required for achieving the 25 per cent forest cover target by 2007 and 33 per cent by 2012;

(c) whether it is a fact that a total of 33.60 million hectares of land is required for the purpose whereas Government could make available only 4.2 million hectares; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortfall and to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is estimated that around 4.73 million ha. under the category of recorded forest area could possibly be brought under forest and tree cover and balance of the deficit of 28.87 million ha. has to be met from culturable waste, fallow and pasture land outside the recorded forest areas.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to meet the shortfall and to achieve the target, are—

(i) Target for tree planting both on private and public land, under 20 Point Programme have been increased.

(ii) The State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to take administrative and operational steps including measures for resource mobilization. These include formation of Coordination Committe of all concerned Departments of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for the purpose, universalization of Joint Forest Management (JFM), extension of Community Participation on Non-Forest Land, supporting the marketing of Forest Products and steps for broad basing the resources

(iii) State Government/Union Territory Administrations have also been advised to formulate a communication strategy and a media plan to generate mass awareness about tree planting.

Developing Bamboo Market

229. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop the bamboo market and to set up a National Bamboo Development Board for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) areas where the bamboo plantation is proposed to be taken up; and